

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /101 W
----- 030971

R 271115 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1843

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4887

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, TH

SUBJECT: PM THANOM ON " POLITICAL PRISONERS"

REF: A. BANGKOK A-136, APRIL 14, 1972

B. BANGKOK 9238, JUNE 30, 1972

C. BANGKOK 11547, AUGUST 16, 1972

1. DURING THE 22 MARCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING PM THANOM RESPONDED TO AN INTERPELLATION ON AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS SUBMITTED BY LAWYER/ ASSEMBLYMAN MARUT BUNNAG. MARUT HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT SPEARHEADING DRIVE TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF THREE FORMER MPS ARRESTED AND SENTENCED DURING NEC PERIOD (REFS A, B).

2. THANOM' S REPLY DEALT NOT ONLY WITH THE THREE MPS BUT WITH ALL PRISONERS CURRENTLY BEING HELD FOR OFFENSES AGAINST THE INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL SECURITY OF THE KINGDOM. HE SAID THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY 18 PRISONERS CHARGED WITH SUCH OFFENSES, E. E., THE THREE EX- MPS AND 15 OTHERS CONVICTED BY THE REGULAR COURTS. (THE CHARGES AGAINST THE 15 VARY WIDELY AND INCLUDE SUCH CRIMES AS GUNRUNNING. HE ADDED THAT AN ADDITIONAL 85 PERSONS ARRESTED DURING THE NEC PERIOD AS COMMUNIST SUBVERSIVES WERE STILL BEING ADMINI- TRATIVELY DETAINED. HE SPECIFIED THAT NONE OF THESE CATEGORIES WERE ARRESTED FOR POLITICAL REASONS: ALL HE SAID HAD VIOLATED THE CRIMINAL CODE. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROPOSE A BILL GIVING AMNESTY TO THESE PRISON- ERS.

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3. COMMENT: THANOM APPEARS TO HA MR-2: SOME SHARP FIGHTING, CASUALTIES IN KONTUM, PLEIKU, BINH DINH, BINH THUAN; PREPARATION FOR VILLAGE ELECTIONS

PART VIII: MR-3: TONLE CHAM AGAIN UNDER FIRE; CANDEL ICCS
LESS TALKATIVE.

PART IV: MRAR: MILITARY ACTIVITY UP, BUT HONG NGU, TRI TON,
QUIET; VC WORK AT POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

PART I - INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS)

1. THE MARCH 26 ICCS PLENARY OPENED WITH A DISCUSSION OF THE
US/ GVN REQUEST FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF THE RE- DISCOVERED SAM-2' S AT
KHE SANH (QUANG TRI PROVINCE). POLDEL AND HUNGDEL REFUSED TO
ORDER THE INVESTIGATION AND DECLINED TO GIVE AN EXPLANATION OF
THEIR STAND, OTHER THAN STATING THEY MAINTAINED THEIR PREVIOUS
POSITIONS.

2. THE SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS WAS A DISCUSSION OF THE CAN THO
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SHOOTING INCIDENT IN WHICH THREE ICCS INDONESIANS WERE WOUNDED.
INDODEL WAS UNAWARE AT THE TIME THAT THE INCIDENT HAD PROBABLY
BEEN CAUSED BY AN RF/ ARVN SHOOTOUT. THE PLENARY DECIDED TO SEND
A LETTER OF PROTEST TO THE FPJMC.

3. THE PROPOSED CITCA CONTRACT FOR FLIGHTS BETWEEN SAIGON AND
HANOI, VIA VIENTIANE, WAS DISCUSSED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE.

4. THE DUC CO INVESTIGATION REPORT WAS NEXT CONSIDERED AND
FORWARDED TO THE FPJMC. CANDEL ATTACHED A STATEMENT GIVING ITS
VIEW THAT THE INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN ONE- SIDED IN FAVOR OF THE
PRG BUT THAT, NEVERTHELESS, THE REPORT SHOULD BE FORWARDED.

5. THE AN LOC HELICOPTER INCIDENT REPORT WAS CONSIDERED AND
FORWARDED TO THE FPJMC.

6. THE FINAL AGENDA ITEM WAS THE REPORT OF THE DUC PHO INVEST-
IGATION WHICH WAS UNCONTROVERSIAL AND WAS FORWARDED TO THE FPJMC.

7. CANDEL AMBASSADOR GAUVIN THEN READ A STATEMENT REGARDING THE
NON- FUNCTIONING OF ICCS REGION VI (22 INVESTIGATIONS REQUESTED AND NO
ACTION TAKEN). HE PLACED THE BLAME FOR THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS ON
HUNGDEL AND POLDEL AND INDICATED HE MIGHT SUBMIT SUCH ANALYSES ON
EACH OF THE SEVEN REGIONS. HE THEN TURNED TO THE TONEL CHAM INVEST-
IGATION. HE BLAMED THE PRG, THE THEN POLISH CHAIRMAN OF REGION V
AND THE HUNGARIAN CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR THE MANY
DELAYS WHICH HAVE PREVENTED THE INVESTIGATION FROM GOING FORWARD.
THE CHAIRMAN (HUNGDEL) ADJOURNED THE MEETING IMMEDIATELY AFTER
AMBASSADOR GAUVIN' S REMARKS, THUS PREVENTING ANY DISCUSSION.

8. ICCS INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED MARCH 16 CEASEFIRE VIOLATION 5 KM
NORTH OF PHAN THIET, CEASEFIRE REGION IV HQ, WAS POSTPONED MARCH

26 DUE TO REPORTS OF RENEWED FIGHTING IN THE AREA. ICCS REQUESTED LIAISON OFFICERS FROM EACH PARTY OF THE FPJMC; ONLY US AND RVN COMPLIED. THIS INVESTIGATION WAS INITIATED UNILATERALLY BY CANDEL, WHICH BEGAN BY INTERVIEWING RESIDENTS OF THE AREA INVOLVED. IT IS HOPED THE OTHER DELS WILL JOIN THE INVESTIGATION IF FIGHTING IN THE AREA CEASES.

9. HUNGDEL HAS RETURNED TO TRI TON. POLES HAVE MADE NO MOVE TO DO SO, ALTHOUGH HERE HAS BEEN NO SHELLING OF THE TOWN SINCE THEY "WITHDREW" MARCH 24.
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10. ACCORDING TO THE CANADIAN OPERATIONS CENTER, THE NEXT RECCE OF THE LAO BAO SITE IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 5. ICCS DEPLOYMENT TO LAO BAO IS TENTATIVELY SET FOR APRIL 10. THE ICCS IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO DEPLOY TO XA MAT ON MARCH 30. NO DEPLOYMENT DATES AS YET FOR AN LOC AND GIO HINH.

PART II: FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (FPJMC)

1. THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE FOR THE RELEASE OF THE REMAINING US POW' S (AND ONE CANADIAN) HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THE DRV/ PRG (ALL RELEASES ARE SCHEDULED FOR GIA LAM AIRPORT, HANOI):

A. MARCH 27 (PM): 32 US POW HELD BY THE PRGGT

B. MARCH 28 (AM): 9 US POW PLUS ONE CANADIAN; THIS WILL INVOLVE ONLY US AND PATHET LAO.

C. MARCH 28 (PM): 40 US POW HELD BY THE DRV.

D. MARCH 29: (NO TIME GIVEN) 67 US POW HELD BY THE DRV.

2. A USAF C-141 AIRCRAFT CARRYING 32 US POW' S LEFT GIA LAM AT 1620 HOURS MARCH 27 LOCAL TIME. THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE REMAINING US FORCES IN RVN HAS THUS ALSO RESUMED; THE FIRST PLANELOAD OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL LEFT SAIGON AT 1700 HOURS MARCH 27.

3. AFTER THE TERMINATION OF THE FPJMC, THE DRV PLANS TO LEAVE A CONTINGENT OF 30 PERSONNEL IN SAIGON TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM (FPJMT/ MIA) CALLED FOR IN ARTICLE ZP OF THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING THE RETURN OF CAPTURED MILITARY PERSONNEL WHICH ALSO ESTABLISHES PROCEDURES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION OF THE DEAD AND MISSING IN ACTION.

4. ON MARCH 26, THE DRV INFORMED THE US THAT THEIR INSTRUCTIONS CALLED FOR TERMINATION OF THE FPJMC AND RETURN TO HANOI MARCH 30-31, AND REQUESTED US SUPPORT FOR THIS REDEPLOYMENT. THE DRV ALSO REQUESTED US ASSISTANCE IN REDEPLOYING PRG
CONT

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